Message Text

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LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ENRG JA

SUBJ: US- JAPAN CONSULTATIONS ON ENERGY

REF (A) STATE 053969; (B) TOKYO 2930

SUMMARY: GOJ TO REVIEW ALTERNATIVE US SUGGESTION
OF BILATERAL US - GOJ GOVERNMENTAL DISCUSSIONS ON
ENERGY QUESTIONS WITHOUT PARTICIPATION OF RESPECTIVE
INDUSTRIES. BUREAUCRATIC RIVALRIES AND DIFFERENCES
OPINION BETWEEN MITI AND FONOFF MAY CONCEIVABLY DELAY RESPONSE.

- 1. ECON/ MIN DISCUSSED CONTENTS REFTEL WITH HIROSHI TOYAMA, DIRGEN, MITI MINERAL, OIL AND COAL MINING BUREAU, AS MOROZUMI CALLED TO DIET. ALSO PRESENT WERE TOYAMA'S DEPUTY SHIRO IIZUKA, AND PETROLEUM PLANNING DIVISION CHIEF RYOHEI SUZUKI.
- 2. TOYAMA STATED HE WOULD REPORT TO MITI MINISTER NAKASONE AND MOROZUMI US WILLINGNESS TO ENTER BILATERAL GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS WITH JAPANESE AS WELL AS US INABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT GOVERNMENT- INDUSTRY BILATERAL TALKS. HE EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT GOJ WOULD FAVOR SUCH CONFIDENTIAL

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CONVERSATIONS EVEN WITHOUT INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT. IIZUKA NOTED THAT NAKASONE'S JOINT GOVERNMENT-BUSINESS CONCEPT GREW OUT OF BELIEF THAT PARTICIPATION BY AMERICAN AND JAPANESE INDUSTRY WOULD BE NECESSARY IF DISCUSSIONS WERE TO RESULT IN MEANINGFUL COOPERATIVE EFFORTS.

- 3. WHEN ECON/ MIN RAISED KONDO MISSION AS EXAMPLE OF GOVERNMENT- INDUSTRY FORUM THAT GIVES US DIFFICULTY, TOYAMA NOTED THAT ASIDE FROM GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS INVOLVED, MISSION MEMBERS WERE PRIMARILY FROM JAPANESE RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND WERE NOT INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES IN NORMAL SENSE OF THE TERM. IN ANY EVENT, TOYAMA STATED THAT KONDO MISSION WAS A STUDY MISSION AND THAT ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE DIFFERED CONSIDERABLY FROM WHAT WAS BEING CONTEMPLATED BY NAKASONE.
- 4. ECON/ MIN SUGGESTED THAT FORTHCOMING ECONCOM IX COULD PROVIDE OCCASION FOR FORUM TO DISCUSS ENERGY PROSPECTS IN BROAD TERMS. TOYAMA STATED HE PERSONALLY FAVORED IDEA BUT WOULD CHECK WITH NAKASONE AND MOROZUMI. HE ADDED THAT US AND JAPAN MUST FIRST DECIDE WHERE COOPERATION IS POSSIBLE AND THEN MOVE INTO POSITIVE AND PRACTICAL COOPERATIVE ENDEAVORS.
- 5. ECON/ MIN NOTED THAT USG STILL VERY MUCH DESIRES OBTAIN EXPRESSION OF JAPANESE VIEWS RE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF COOPERATIVE ACTION BY OIL CONSUMING COUNTRIES. TOYAMA NOTED THAT GOJ VIEWS WERE STILL IN EMBRYONIC STAGE AND HE DOUBTED IF JAPAN WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE SUCH INFORMATION PRIOR TO PRESIDENT'S ENERGY MESSAGE.
- 6. ECON/ MIN ALSO INFORMED MIYAZAKI, DIRGEN, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU FONOFF, OF SUBSTANCE WASHINGTON REFTEL. IT CLEAR THAT FONOFF ENGAGED IN BUREAUCRATIC STRUGGLE WITH MITI FOR LEADERSHIP IN DETERMINING JAPAN'S INTERNATIONAL ENERGY POLICY. FONOFF, FOR EXAMPLE, CLEARLY ATTACHES FAR GREATER IMPORTANCE TO KONDO MISSION THAN DOES MITI AND ALSO APPEARS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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BE LESS ENTHUSED ABOUT USING ECONCOM AS FORUM FOR

DISCUSSIONS ON ENERGY MATTERS ALTHOUGH THIS IS FAR FROM BEING ITS FINAL DETEDRMINATION. EMBASSY WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO FIND THAT BUREAUCRATIC RIVALRY SLOWS DOWN RESPONSES PROMISED ECON/ MIN BY TOYAMA.

7. RE REFTEL (A) PARA 4 REFERENCE TO BP/ JAPANESE DEAL IN ABU DHABI, BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICER DEALING WITH ENERGY TOLD EMBOFF IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THAT AT LAST MINUTE OF NEGOTIATIONS, THERE WAS INTERVENTION BY QTE THE HIGHEST LEVELS UNQTE OF HMG.

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^{***} Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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